AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the paragraph at page 7, lines 7-24, and replace it with the following amended paragraph:

The episomal eukaryotic expression vector pCEP-Pu/BM40SP, produced from pCEP4 (Invitrogen) (Kohfeldt E et al, FEBS Lett 1997;414:557-61), was modified to introduce a sequence encoding the Strep II tag (IBA, Germany) and a stop codon into the multiple cloning site. The primers 5'-GGCCGCATGGAGCCATCCACAATTCGAAAAGTA **(SEQ ID NO: 1)** and 5'-GGCCTACTTTTCGAATTGTGGATGGCTCCATGC **(SEQ ID NO: 2)** were annealed together and introduced into the Not I site thus constructing a vector (pCEP-Pu/BM40SP/C-Strep) producing a carboxyterminal Strep II fusion protein suitable for streptavidin affinity purification by a StrepTactin™ (IBA, Germany) affinity column as described before by Schmidt TGM et al (J Mol Biol 1996;255:753-66). The full-length human TGc cDNA (GeneBank accession number M55153, cloned in pSP73) was amplified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using the 5'-primer 5'-ATTAAGCTTGCCGCCACCATGGCCGAGGAGCTGGTC **(SEQ ID NO: 3)**, and the 3'-primer 5'-TAAGCGGCCGCGGGGCCAATGATGACATTC **(SEQ ID NO: 4)**. The 5'-primer introduced a new Hind III restriction site and a Kozak's translation initiation sequence, the 3'-primer inserted a new Not I restriction site and removed the stop codon. The Hind III/Not I restriction enzyme digested PCR product was purified and inserted at the same restriction sites of the pCEP-Pu/BM40SP/C-Strep, in order to obtain the final expression vector pCEP-Pu/TGc/C-Strep. The correct insertion and sequence of the full construct was verified by cycle sequencing using the ABI Prism Big Dye Terminator Cycle Sequencing Ready Reaction Kit and the products were resolved on an ABI Prism 377 Automated Sequencer (Perkin-Elmer/Applied Biosystems).

Please delete the paragraph at page 8, lines 14-22, and replace it with the following amended paragraph:

An episomal expression construct was built allowing the production of a C-terminal Strep II fusion protein suitable for streptavidin affinity purification by a StrepTactin™ (Institut für Bioanalytik, Germany) affinity column (Schmidt TGM et al., J Mol Biol 1996;255:753-66.).

The TGe proenzyme cDNA was amplified by PCR using the 5'-primer 5'-ATTAAGCT-TGCCGCCACCATGGCTGCTCTAGGAGTC **(SEQ ID NO: 5)**, and the 3'-primer 5'-ATTGCGGCCGCTTCGGCTACATCGATGGACAAC **(SEQ ID NO: 6)**. The 5'-primer introduced a new Hind III restriction site and a Kozak's translation initiation sequence, while the 3'-primer inserted a new Not I restriction site and removed the stop codon. The Hind III/Not I restriction enzyme digested PCR product was purified and inserted at the same restriction sites of the episomal eukaryotic expression vector pCEP-Pu/BM40SP/C-Strep, produced from pCEP4 (Invitrogen), in order to obtain the final expression vector pCEP-Pu/TGe/C-Strep.

Please delete the paragraph at page 8, lines 25-30, and replace it with the following amended paragraph:

The eukaryotic episomal expression vector pCEP4 (Invitrogen) was modified to introduce a sequence encoding a Kozak's translation initiation sequence and the Strep II tag into the multiple cloning site. The primers 5'-CTAGTTGCCGCCACCATGGCTTGGAGCCATCCACAATTC-GAAAAGG **(SEQ ID NO: 7)** and 5'-CTAGCGCCTTTTCGAATTGTGGATGGCTCCAAGCCATGGTGGCGGCAA **(SEQ ID NO: 8)** were annealed together and introduced into the Nhe I site thus constructing a vector (pCEP4/N -Strep) producing an N-terminal Strep II fusion protein.

Please delete the paragraph at page 8, line 33 through page 9, line 9, and replace it with the following amended paragraph:

Two episomal expression constructs were built allowing the production of both a C-terminal and an N-terminal Strep II fusion protein. For the construct with C-terminal Strep II tag, the TGx cDNA was amplified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using the 5'-primer 5'-ATTGCGGCCGCCATGGCCCAAGGGCTAGAAG **(SEQ ID NO: 9)**, and the 3'-primer 5'-TAAGCGGCCGCTAATGCAAAGTCTACATAAAC **(SEQ ID NO: 10)**. The 5'-primer introduced a new Not I restriction site and a Kozak's translation initiation sequence, while the 3'-primer inserted a new Not I restriction site and removed the stop codon. The Not I restriction enzyme digested PCR product was purified and inserted at the same restriction sites of pCEP4 in

order to obtain the final expression vector pCEP4/TGx/C-Strep. For the construct with N-terminal Strep II tag, the TGx cDNA was amplified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using the 5'-primer 5'-ATTGCTAGCCCAAGGGCTAGAAGTGG **(SEQ ID NO: 11)**, and the 3'-primer 5'-TAAGCGGCCGCTTATAATGCAAAGTCTACATAAAC **(SEQ ID NO: 12)**. The 5'-primer introduced a new Nhe I restriction site and removed the first methionine, the 3'-primer inserted a new Not I restriction site directly after the stop codon. After digesting with the restriction enzymes Nhe I and Not I the PCR product was purified and inserted at the same restriction sites of pCEP4 in order to obtain the final expression vector pCEP4/N-Strep/TGx.

Please delete the paragraph at page 9, lines 12-28, and replace it with the following amended paragraph:

Two episomal expression constructs were built allowing the production of both a C-terminal and an N-terminal Strep II fusion protein. For the construct with C-terminal Strep II tag, the TGk proenzyme cDNA was amplified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using the 5'-primer 5'-ATTAAGCTTGCCGCCACCATGATGGATGGGCCACGTTCC **(SEQ ID NO: 13)**, and the 3'-primer 5'-ATTGCGGCCGCAGCTCCACCTCGAGATGCCATAGG **(SEQ ID NO: 14)**. The 5'-primer introduced a new Hind III restriction site and a Kozak's translation initiation sequence, while the 3'-primer inserted a new Not I restriction site and removed the stop codon. The Hind III/Not I restriction enzyme digested PCR product was purified and inserted at the same restriction sites of pCEP-Pu/BM40SP/C-Strep, in order to obtain the final expression vector pCEP-PuTGk/C-Strep. For the construct with N-terminal Strep II tag, the TGk proenzyme cDNA was amplified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using the 5'-primer 5'-ATTGCTAGCAGATGGGCCACGTTCCGATG **(SEQ ID NO: 15)**, and the 3'-primer 5'-ATTGGATCCTAAGCTCCACCTCGAGATGC **(SEQ ID NO: 16)**. The 5'-primer introduced a new Nhe I restriction site and removed the first two methionines, while the 3'-primer inserted a new Not I restriction site directly after the stop codon. After digesting with the restriction enzymes Nhe I and Not I the PCR product was purified and inserted at the same restriction sites of pCEP4, in order to obtain the final expression vector pCEP4/N-Strep/TGk. The correct insertion and sequence of the full constructs was verified by cycle sequencing as described above.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE LISTING

At pages 4-5 of the pending Office Action, the Examiner has requested compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§1.821-1.825.

In response to this request, the specification has been amended to insert sequence identifiers where appropriate. Moreover, enclosed herewith is a diskette which contains a Sequence Listing in computer readable form as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(e). Also enclosed is a paper copy of the Sequence Listing and a statement that the contents of the paper copy and the computer readable copy of the Sequence Listing are the same as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(f).